

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-07 COME-00 SP-02
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6516
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 00390

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEWT, ECON, EAID, GE
SUBJECT: INCREASING CEMA COUNTRY INVOLVEMENT IN GLOBAL
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

REF:77STATE 289920 (NOTAL)

1. WE BELIEVE IT BOTH DESIRABLE AND FEASIBLE TO SEEK
TO INDUCE GREATER AND MORE MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION ON
THE PART OF CEMA COUNTRIES IN GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.
BESIDES THE POSSIBILITY OF MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION BY
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THE INDUSTRIALIZED EAST TOWARD MEETING THE DEVELOPMENTAL
AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OF THE THIRD AND FOURTH WORLDS,
WE BELIEVE IT COULD, BY PROVIDING AN OBJECT FOR
COOPERATIVE ACTIVITY, ALSO EXERT A BENEFICIAL EFFECT
ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS. WE BELIEVE
IT WITHIN THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY THAT GREATER
INVOLVEMENT OF CEMA IN NORTH-SOUTH PROBLEMS COULD

EVEN INDUCE A MARGINAL INTERNAL REALLOCATION OF RESOURCES AWAY FROM MILITARY AND SECURITY EXPENDITURE.

2. WE THINK, IN PARTICULAR, THAT THE GDR MIGHT BE POTENTIALLY MORE RECEPTIVE TO THE IDEA OF PLAYING A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE ON NORTH-SOUTH QUESTIONS THAN MIGHT BE WIDELY BELIEVED. THE GDR HAS TAKEN AN ACTIVIST STANCE ON RELATIONS WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND HAS A CERTAIN QUANTITY OF POLITICAL CAPITAL ALREADY INVESTED IN CREATING AN IMAGE OF HUMANE AND COMPETENT INTEREST IN THE AFFAIRS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. GDR SPOKESMEN HAVE EXPRESSED TO US UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD, AND AT LEAST ONE HAS GONE SO FAR AS TO SAY THE GDR IS NOT NOW DOING ENOUGH.

3. A RESOURCE-POOR RAW MATERIALS IMPORTER, THE GDR HAS, IN ADDITION, A STRONG ECONOMIC INTEREST IN THE NATURE OF ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IT IS HARDLY INDIFFERENT TO THE TERMS ON WHICH THE THIRD WORLD IS WILLING TO MAKE AVAILABLE RAW MATERIALS TO THE NORTH, AND HAS A NATURAL INTEREST IN STABLE, LONG-TERM SOURCES OF SUPPLY. WE BELIEVE THAT IN THIS RESPECT THE GDR LOOKS ON THE RAW MATERIALS SUPPLY ASPECTS OF NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS QUITE DIFFERENTLY FROM THE SOVIET UNION.

4. THERE ARE OF COURSE SIGNIFICANT LIMITATIONS IMPOSED
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BY POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE GDR MIGHT COOPERATE IN NORTH-SOUTH AFFAIRS AS CONCEIVED BY THE INDUSTRIALIZED WEST. LIKE OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, THE GDR ADHERES TO A DIFFERENT CONCEPTION OF AN EQUITABLE WORLD ORDER FROM OUR OWN; AND IT HAS A STRONG POLITICAL NEED TO AVOID IDENTIFYING ITSELF WITH POSITIONS CONSIDERED CONSTRUCTIVE BY THE WEST. TO THE DEGREE, HOWEVER, THAT THE GDR'S REAL ECONOMIC INTERESTS DIVERGE FROM THOSE OF THE SOVIET UNION, AND WE FIND THE DEGREE OF DIVERGENCE NOT INCONSEQUENTIAL, TACIT AND SELECTIVE COOPERATION BY THE GDR ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES CANNOT BE RULED OUT.

5. LIKE MANY OF OUR COLLEAGUES ELSEWHERE IN COMMUNIST EUROPE, WE ARE ATTRACTED BY THE NOTION OF LETTING THE LDC'S TAKE THE LEAD, KEEPING IN MIND THAT THE GDR CONCEIVES OF ITSELF AS A COUNTRY WITH A PARTICULAR ROLE TO PLAY IN RESPECT TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND MAY BE MORE SENSITIVE THAN WE EXPECT TO THEIR VIEWS.
BOLEN

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